



Arkansas Finish Line Coalition – Working to Insure all Arkansas Children

This new Coalition comprised of advocates and experts in children’s health across Arkansas, will lead a three-year effort to ensure every child in Arkansas has health insurance. Here in Arkansas, 10 percent of our children are uninsured. While Arkansas has made great progress since the inception of ARKids First, we have more to accomplish. With over half of the state’s uninsured children already eligible for ARKids First, enrolling children in this and other programs should be a priority. More and more, other states are leading the way in the fight to covering all children because they realize it’s an investment that simply makes sense.

Over the next three years, the Finish Line Coalition will work to:

- **Reduce the number of eligible, unenrolled children** from 44,000 to 22,000 during the three-year grant period. The Coalition, including local outreach partners, will identify barriers and develop strategies to reduce or eliminate these obstacles.
- **Expand ARKids Eligibility from 200 to 300 percent of poverty.** The Coalition will consider expansion options and educate partners across the state about the importance of children’s access to health insurance.
- **Develop a buy-in program for families that remain ineligible for ARKids First.** The Coalition will work with state officials to consider strategies allowing families to buy into either the current ARKids First program or a program with similar benefits.

Arkansas has come a long way in fighting to keep kids healthy and giving them a better chance to succeed, and now is the time to put in the extra effort and take children’s health coverage all the way to the finish line!

To learn more about the Coalition, contact:

Elisabeth Wright Burak, Health Policy Director
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
501.371.9678 ext.119 or elisabeth.burak@aradvocates.org

The Finish Line Coalition is supported by a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Arkansas Finish Line Coalition

Arkansas Academy of Family Physicians
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
Arkansas Association of Education Administrators
Arkansas Children's Hospital
Arkansas Education Association
Arkansas Head Start Association
Arkansas Hospital Association
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance
Arkansas Interfaith Alliance
American Academy of Pediatrics - Arkansas Chapter
Benefit Bank of Arkansas
Community Health Centers of Arkansas
Easter Seals Arkansas
Harmony Health Clinic
March of Dimes - Arkansas Chapter
Mental Health Council of Arkansas
Natural Wonders Partnership Council
New Futures for Youth, Inc.

....and growing!!